

Orwell saying, "Free speech is my right to say what you don't want to hear." What a fitting quote for our friend, LOUIE GOHMERT.

You can count on LOUIE to be truthful. Sometimes he says what you don't want him to say. But he says it if he believes it. He is a man of integrity, and he stands his ground. You can count on LOUIE GOHMERT to be bold, and you can count on LOUIS to be fearless.

There will be a great hole in this august body here without LOUIE GOHMERT. I imagine that it will really never be filled in the same way that it was.

In a recent Louie Hour, my friend closed his time on the floor with following words, and I would like to do the same.

I continue to have hope that springs eternal in the human breast that we don't and won't lose the greatest freedom, the greatest country, and the greatest gift of a country any people has ever received, and that it will not be our generation that sees it lost.

May God bless LOUIE GOHMERT and his family.

We will miss him.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to say what an honor it has been to serve alongside the great LOUIE GOHMERT. I have watched him on television, as we say, for many years, fighting the fight for our freedom, for the Constitution, and for the values that make America so exceptional and so great.

I know I am about to be gaveled, and I am running out of time, so let me say this: This man has the kind of grit and the kind of fight that this country and this country's leaders are going to need if we are going to restore freedom and return power to the people and resurrect the great United States of America.

If we could just bottle a little bit of LOUIE GOHMERT and force-feed it to the Members of this body, I believe we could get our great country back.

God bless LOUIE GOHMERT. God bless his family and all his future endeavors, and God bless America.

□ 1830

HONORING FRED HAMPTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, LOUIE GOHMERT, for his friendship over the past years that we have served together in this Chamber.

I certainly thank him for his support of the Emmett Till Antilynching Act that was signed into law by President Biden a few months ago. I thank Representative GOHMERT for his support and for his steadfastness on that bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is for the final time that I stand in this well on this floor to commemorate the memory and the legacy of Fred Hampton, my friend and comrade in the Black Panther Party.

This last Sunday marked 53 years since Chairman Fred was assassinated by a racist, corrupt Chicago Police Department, which, as a part of the FBI's COINTELPRO program, the FBI's national counterintelligence program, without legal authority and in stark violation of the U.S. Constitution, surveilled, harassed, harmed, arrested, and assassinated innocent, ordinary American citizens.

My friend, Fred Hampton, was a brilliant young man that I recruited to join the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, which I, along with Mr. Bob Brown, organized in 1968.

Fred and I fought together side by side against police brutality and police murder in Chicago specifically, but across our great Nation in general.

We set up free community health clinics, free breakfast for children programs, and a free busing to prison program to allow families to visit their loved ones who were in prison.

Mr. Speaker, we initiated free sickle cell anemia testing programs to educate this Nation and to tell Black people about this dreaded but often and largely ignored disease.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to his charismatic leadership, Fred Hampton was so powerful and so inspirational throughout the city of Chicago and the Nation at large, his charisma, his influence extended even to other countries.

Chairman Fred was a charismatic, courageous, exceptional, and highly committed leader, who, at the age of 21, was assassinated while he slept under the influence of the drug Seconal that was put in his favorite drink at that time, which was Kool-Aid. His Kool-Aid was laced with Seconal.

Why? Because Fred Hampton used every fiber of his talent, his immense talent, without hesitancy, to fight for poor people: poor Whites, poor Blacks, poor Asians, poor Hispanic people, poor people across the board.

His oratory skills exceeded almost every significant leader of his time. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, he was able to move the masses not simply and only because of his oratory but also because of his example.

To see Fred, to hear Fred, was to know Fred, to be inspired by Fred.

Mr. Speaker, Chicago, my home city, the city I love, was and still is one of the most segregated cities in America, but Chairman Fred understood how to connect across racial and geographic boundaries. He knew how to connect with aspirations and deep-seated desires of people across racial and geographic lines. He knew how to create alliances and coalitions based around common needs and common desires.

He created the original Rainbow Coalition in Chicago. This coalition was a partnership with the Young Lords, a Hispanic organization, and the Young

Patriots, which was an organization of poor Appalachian Whites from the Uptown community in Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, this amazing, creative, never-seen-before coalition of poor people was comprised of working-class people in our city suffering with the same issues that we all were suffering with. Those issues were police brutality, substandard housing, mediocre education, low-quality healthcare, and low-quality food that was being sold in stores in our neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, these were the programs that Fred Hampton championed. This was the kind of individual that Fred Hampton was.

I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, and say that rather than be saluted for these and similar efforts, the Black Panther Party members, and particularly Chairman Fred, were seen as a threat to those in power.

J. Edgar Hoover said that the Black Panther Party was this Nation's number one threat. Why? We were feeding hungry children. We were providing free healthcare to young children, to poor people who needed it. We were taking loved ones to prison to see their loved ones who were incarcerated. We were speaking truth to power.

Is this the reason why Fred Hampton was assassinated? Is this the very reason why the Black Panther Party was being viewed by J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI as the number one threat to this Nation? It just doesn't make sense.

Mr. Speaker, J. Edgar Hoover's FBI started a file on Fred and put him on their Agitator Index, listing him as a key militant leader.

They even went so far as to hire a fellow by the name of William O'Neal, a streetwise Black criminal and operative, as an FBI informant who was assigned to infiltrate the Black Panther Party and report back to them about our every move, our every activity.

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And then, Mr. Speaker, on December 4, 1969, at about 4 a.m. in the morning, the Chicago Police Department, working in conjunction with the FBI and the Cook County State's Attorney, Edward V. Hanrahan, surreptitiously entered an apartment at 2337 West Monroe where Fred Hampton lived, and where other Black Panther Party members were staying. They came with the premeditated plan to murder Fred Hampton, to murder me and any other party members that they found in that apartment.

They came armed with machine guns, high-powered pistols, and every other type of weapon, intent on killing everyone in that apartment. They came under the guise of executing a search warrant for weapons, but had every intention of murdering Fred Hampton, and others in that apartment. They killed Fred.

Mr. Speaker, let me make it real clear. Throughout American history, there has not been anyone other than

Fred Hampton that was assassinated under the authority of the U.S. Government—not one. Fred Hampton was the only politically assassinated American citizen that was assassinated on the shores of our Nation. Fred Hampton.

They came for me, but they missed me, Mr. Speaker. Early the following morning at about 5 a.m. on December 5, they came, the Chicago Police Department tried to kill me again. They came to my apartment with a search warrant for weapons and they shot my door down, but I was not in that apartment. I moved my family out of that apartment, just hours before they came, on the preceding day.

Mr. Speaker, they tried to justify the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark by saying that it was a shoot-out, placing the blame on Fred and other members of the Black Panther Party. Later, it became crystal clear that this was a clear politically motivated assassination.

The grand jury evidence showed that the police had fired 99 times—99 shots fired into that apartment. And they also said that there were only two shots that were possibly fired by the Panthers in that apartment.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind you that this was during the 1960s, a time of deep and necessary awakening in our Nation, a time of political protest, a time of cultural confrontation. A time of change in our Nation. It was a time when poor, oppressed people took a necessary step forward to end the systemic oppression that they were faced with.

African Americans, women, disabled individuals, Mexican-American farmworkers, Native Americans, anti-war protestors, environmentalists, and other activists organized to fight during this time against injustice and for equality and for equity.

Most of us view this time, some half-century later, as a turning point in American history. A time when the oppressed populations in our Nation finally had an opportunity to speak up and create positive change for themselves and by themselves.

However, Mr. Speaker, J. Edgar Hoover, didn't like what he saw. He didn't like what was going on in our Nation.

J. Edgar Hoover determined that anyone who had the audacity to stand up and challenge the oppressive status quo, that they were a threat.

To whom? We were American citizens. We loved our Nation. We were a threat to him and his consorts—him and those who wanted to oppress, for racial and other reasons, poor people.

Mr. Speaker, in 1956, J. Edgar Hoover created and designed a program within the Federal Bureau of Investigation called COINTELPRO. COINTELPRO was an acronym for the Counterintelligence Program of the FBI.

This program was a calculated, strategic effort to discredit, dismantle, neutralize all the efforts for societal reform, for our right to constitutionally redress our grievances and lift

the oppression, subjugation, discrimination, and biases that we were forced to live under.

This COINTEL Program illegally, outside of the law, spied on and harassed American citizens. They went so far as to tap phone lines, plant false and damaging stories in the national and local press, falsely imprison people, charging people, and even assassinating American citizens, activists.

J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI famously targeted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his family. Hoover sought to discredit Dr. King and to undermine his civil rights work by painting him as a Communist.

After Dr. King made his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, and the inspiration that it created for people from all backgrounds across the Nation, then J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI came to view Dr. King as a dangerous person. They began a massive surveillance campaign against Dr. King. They tried to prove that Dr. King was a Communist. They failed to produce one scintilla of evidence on this, but they still habitually harassed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1964, the FBI sent what is known as the "suicide letter," that was their quote. The letter urged Dr. King to commit suicide by calling him a fraud and citing alleged extramarital affairs. This dastardly, low-life letter was sent to Dr. King's home where it was opened by his wife, Coretta.

This was a calculated, sinister, and deeply personal attempt by the FBI designed to bring shame and harm to Dr. King and his family. This was outside of everything that this Nation stands for—outside of the law.

Mr. Speaker, they were using taxpayer dollars in order to do these and other dastardly things, using this COINTEL Program as their vehicle.

They didn't stop with Dr. King. Some of the other well-known targets for this COINTEL Program included Aretha Franklin, Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Billie Holiday, Marilyn Monroe, Jane Fonda, Jean Seberg, John Lennon, Yoko Ono, even the 1960s pop band, The Monkees. They were also victims of COINTEL.

□ 1900

J. Edgar Hoover had already started spying on people like Charlie Chaplin and Ernest Hemingway well before this COINTELPRO program was finalized and set up and operationalized.

This COINTELPRO program targeted everyday people, not just luminaries, but everyday, ordinary American citizens, anyone that had the audacity to voice a disagreement against discrimination.

They even targeted housewives, the housewives who attended the chapter meetings for the National Organization for Women.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the COINTELPRO Full Disclosure Act, H.R. 2998, and I ask that the Members of this Congress sign on to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to come to the floor tonight to commemorate the 81st Annual National Bible Week, a week in which we celebrate the tremendous influence of the Bible on the freedoms we enjoy today in America.

In 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared the week of Thanksgiving to be National Bible Week, on the eve of World War II. In the years since, every President has issued a national proclamation, as have many governors and mayors.

The Bible has had a profound impact on my own life as well. When I was an 18-year old freshman at the University of Kansas, I was approached by some people who asked me if I knew what was in the Bible. I said I believed I knew what it was all about; however, I had never read any of it for myself.

The only honest thing I could do at that point was to read it for myself. So when I read the gospel of John, I ended up discovering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who became my Lord and Savior.

In that gospel, He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me."

So we recognize the Bible's powerful message of hope. We cherish the wisdom of the Bible. We acknowledge its profound role in the founding of our country; and we thank God for providing this holy book. It has truly been, as it says, a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

We are here, in keeping with tradition, to recognize National Bible Week.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of fellow Representatives from all across this great country of ours who want to comment on National Bible Week, on the importance of the Bible to them, to their districts, and to the country.

We will go now first with Mr. ROBERT ADERHOLT, and then continue down the list in the order that people arrived here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be here today to recognize National Bible Week and, especially, along with my colleague, DOUG LAMBORN from the great State of Colorado.